

## **CHERYL HUGHES**

### **Professional Bio**

Currently a Loeb Fellow at the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, Cheryl Hughes is studying the theory and models of urban ephemera and temporary urbanism, specifically familiarizing herself with cultural programs, celebrations and festivals around the world and link between public events and the design and use of public spaces. She co-taught a graduate seminar, EventPlaces, at the M.I.T. School of Urban Planning, this class explored ephemera and temporary urbanism and focused on their place in urban design.

As Director of Program Development for the City of Chicago, Mayor's Office of Special Events (October 1998 to present), Ms. Hughes develops new programs and festivals that reach thousands of Chicago residents each year. In designing these festivals, Ms. Hughes creatively utilizes public spaces to produce both intimate and grand-scale events that treat the familiar landscape in unexpected but aesthetically pleasing ways. She manages all elements of the events, such as: site selection, operation, production, marketing, media and sponsorship.

Her most recent accomplishment was the launching of Puppetropolis Chicago: An International Puppet Pageant. This two-week festival involved collaboration with the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and multiple cultural institutions to create a citywide celebration of the art of puppetry. As a tribute to the late Chicago film critic Gene Siskel, she designed the Chicago Outdoor Film Festival. Held in Chicago's Grant Park, the festival showcased classic American films and recreated the nostalgic feel of a drive-in within an urban park. Ms. Hughes also developed Great Chicago Places and Spaces, Chicago's annual architecture festival which provides free tours, open houses and a firework display on the Chicago River. She also worked with the internationally known artist, Dale Chihuly, to create and install the dinner décor of over 300 pieces of Chihuly glass and a 500-piece chandelier created by Chihuly and Gallery 37 apprentice artists for the Chicago International Millennium Dinner. In this position, Ms. Hughes has been asked to serve on number committees regarding the use and development of public space, including the Millennium Park Inter-governmental Planning Committee, Internal Landscape Committee, Jens Jensen Legacy project development committee, Nonprofit Finance Fund: Chicago Cultural Facilities Advisory Board member, and the Central Area Plan Committee.

Prior to her position at the Mayor's Office of Special Events, Ms. Hughes was the first Executive Director of Gallery 37 (May 1991 to September 1998), the award-winning youth employment program in the arts. Under Ms. Hughes's leadership in 1991, an undeveloped block in the Chicago Loop was converted to a lively outdoor art studio that employed 260 youths and dozens of professional artists. Since then, the program has grown to more than 40 sites in park districts, schools, and community centers throughout the City of Chicago and employs over 3,000 youths. As Executive Director, Ms. Hughes managed an annual budget of over \$4 million and facilitated extensive collaboration between public and private institutions. She also managed the initial phases of design and space utilization for the new Visual and Performing Arts Center for Gallery 37 in the Chicago Theatre District. In 1997, under her directorship, Gallery 37 was named "One of the Ten Most Innovative Programs in American Government" by the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. In 1993, Chicago won the First Place Livability Award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors based, in part, on Gallery 37's impact on the City of Chicago. Because of the success of the program Ms. Hughes was asked to serve as a consultant and goodwill liaison to over twenty national and international cities interested in replicating Gallery 37.

Prior to her employment with the City of Chicago, Ms. Hughes coordinated a number of Chicago arts events, including a series of Chicago Dance Coalition dance performances and the Printers Row Photo and Book Fair, one of the nation's largest book fairs. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education at Ohio State University in 1984.